

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIE-00 AF-08

ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SAM-01 /105 W

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FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3695

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L NAIROBI 12167

NESCO

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, PORG, UNESCO

SUBJ: UNESCO 19TH GC: ISRAEL GENERAL DEBATE SPEECH,  
NOVEMBER 4, 1976

1. HIGHLIGHT OF GENERAL DEBATE, TODAY - NOVEMBER 3 - WAS  
SPEECH BY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS:

ISRAEL CALLED UPON UNESCO TO DIVEST ITSELF OF DIVISE AND  
FUTILE ATTEMPTS AT DECLARATORY POLITICAL WARFARE AND TRY TO  
ADDRESS ITSELF TO THE REAL CULTURAL, SOCIAL AND INTELLECTUAL  
ISSUES FACING THE ORGANIZATION.

IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UNESCO IN  
NAIROBI, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF ISRAEL'S MINISTRY OF  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, PROFESSOR SHLOMO AVINERI, CRITICIZED THE  
DISCRIMINATORY POLITICS OF PREVIOUS UNESCO RESOLUTIONS  
CONCERNING ISRAEL, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO JERUSALEM.

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WHEN FREEDOM OF WORSHIP WAS DENIED TO JEWS IN JERUSALEM DURING 19 YEARS OF JORDANIAN CONTROL, WHEN THE WHOLE HISTORICAL JEWISH QUARTER WITH ITS ANCIENT SYNAGOGUES WAS RAZED BY THE JORDANIANS, UNESCO WAS SILENT. ONLY WHEN ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS STARTED BRINGING OUT THE MULTI-FACETED TREASURES OF JERUSALEM'S HISTORY, DID UNESCO CONDEMN ISRAEL UNDER POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM THE ARAB COUNTRIES. ISRAEL, PROFESSOR AVINERI STRESSED, EVEN WHILE SURROUNDED BY ENEMIES IS DOING ITS UTMOST TO PRESERVE THE CULTURAL TREASURES OF ALL CIVILIZATIONS TO BE FOUND IN THE HISTORICAL PAST OF THE COUNTRY, AND HE INVITED MUSLIM AND CHRISTIAN ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO JOIN IN THE STUDY OF JERUSALEM'S ANTIQUITIES.

ON THE OTHER HAND HE EXPLAINED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL CANNOT INTERFERE WITH THE FREEDOM OF RESEARCH OF ISRAELI SCIENTISTS, AND THE BUSINESS OF UNESCO IS TO DEFEND ACADEMIC FREEDOM, NOT TO SUPPRESS IT. PROFESSOR AVINERI EXPLAINED THE REASONS FOR ISRAEL'S WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO BE SENT BY THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF UNESCO TO STUDY THE EDUCATIONAL SITUATION IN THE ADMINISTERED TERRITORIES. "WE ARE PROUD OF OUR RECORD AND THE TERRITORIES ARE OPEN TO ALL VISITORS WHO CAN FORM THEIR OPINION ABOUT WHAT IS REALLY HAPPENING."

ON THE QUESTION OF REGIONAL AFFILIATION, PROFESSOR AVINERI SAID IT WAS UTTERLY UNACCEPTABLE THAT UNESCO WILL TOLERATE SECOND-CLASS CITIZENSHIP IN ITS MIDST AND HOPED THE ISSUE WOULD BE RESOLVED.

"LET US GET UNESCO MOVING AGAIN, FOR COOPERATION AND NOT CONFRONTATION, FOR DEVELOPMENT AND NOT POLITICAL WARFARE", HE SAID.

PROFESSOR AVINERI COMMENDED THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO ON HIS EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS FACING THE ORGANIZATION AND EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL TURN OUT TO BE SUCCESSFUL.

2. OF PARTICULAR NOTE WAS ISRAEL STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL  
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ARCHAEOLOGISTS ARE NOT "THE ONLY ONES" DIGGING IN JERUSALEM. IN FACT, THERE ARE FIVE ARCHEOLOGICAL TEAMS INCLUDING ONE MOSLEM GROUP. OF THESE, ONLY ISRAEL HAS BEEN SINGLED OUT FOR CONDEMNATION.

3. IN RESPONSE, PARTICULARLY TO ISRAEL CHARGE THAT USSR DOES NOT LIVE UP TO ITS OWN LAW IN PROVIDING HUMAN RIGHTS TO JEWISH PEOPLE IN SOVIET UNION, SOVIET DEL CALLED FOR A

POINT OF ORDER AND INDICATED EXERCISE OF RIGHT OF REPLY  
LATER. HE CALLED ISRAEL SPEECH "A SERIES OF LIES."

4. ISRAEL SPEECH WAS SCHOLARLY IN BOTH CONTENT AND DELIVERY.  
IT WAS FULL OF INFORMATION (TEXT POUCHED TOUSSAINT, IO.)  
APPLAUSE FOLLOWING SPEECH WAS SOMEWHAT MORE THAN POLITE.  
THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE MIXED REACTION, EVEN AMONG "FRIENDS."  
MANY CALLED THE SPEECH "PROVOCATIVE." OTHERS FELT IT WOULD  
HINDER, RATHER THAN HELP IN DEALING WITH THE ISRAELI  
ISSUES. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL INDICATED SUBSTANTIAL  
RESERVATIONS RELATIVE TO WHAT WAS SAID.

5. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS FOLLOWING DEBATE, ISRAELIS  
TOLD USDEL, SPEECH WENT FURTHER IN THE SPIRIT OF RECON-  
CILIATION THAN SOME IN ISRAEL WOULD HAVE LIKED, BUT ISRAEL  
DEL GENERALLY PLEASED. ISRAEL CONTINUES TO MAKE THE POINT  
THAT EXCAVATIONS HAVE VIRTUALLY CEASED AND LEMAIRE REPORT  
SO STATES. UNESCO WILL MAKE THESE EXCERPTS AVAILABLE AND  
US WILL FOLLOW THIS CLOSELY. ISRAEL DEL POINTS OUT THAT  
ON THE EXCAVATION ISSUE, CONDEMNATION PRECEDED INVESTIGATION  
RATHER THAN THE LOGICAL REVERSE.

6. AT END OF ISRAEL SPEECH, EGYPT FOLLOWED THE USSR CALLING  
A POINT OF ORDER. EGYPT CHARGED "FOR THE 159TH TIME,  
ISRAELIS GO BEYOND FRAMEWORK OF GENERAL DEBATE - "A COMPLETE  
LIE AND DISTORTION OF TRUTH." EGYPT SAID IT WOULD EXERCISE  
RIGHT OF REPLY.  
MARSHALL

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